GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4276
ANSWERED ON:21.08.2000
THIRD TELEPHONE TO MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently announced fifty thousand free calls on third telephone for MPs;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the guidelines framed for the purpose;

(c) the head from which this expenditure is to be met;

(d) the reason for making money from the public and losing the same from MPs;

(e) the extent to which the Government propose to give similar facility to the general public in the country; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In view of the recommendations of the Joint Committee on Salaries and Allowances of MPs and a Gazette Notification No. 272 dated 13.05.2000, a Member of Parliament has been allowed a third telephone with 50,000 free calls in a year for Internet Connectivity purpose with effect from 13.05.2000 at Delhi/Constituency/State.

(c) The expenditure involved shall be borne by Lok Sabha/ Rajya Sabha Secretariat.

(d) Members of Parliament have been allowed above facility on recommendation of the joint committee on Salaries and Allowances of MPs for which expenditure will be borne by Lok Sabha/ Rajya Sabha Secretariat.

(e)&(f): Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) in exercise of powers conferred uponit vide TRAI Act 1997; on re-balancing the tariff has rationalized call charges; decreasing the highest slab of Rs. 1.40 to Rs. 1.20 per call w.e.f. 01.05.1999; while recommending a reduction in the number of free calls permitted to a subscriber. Government while accepting the reduction in highest slab decided to retain the existing permissible higher number of free calls to each subscriber.